



**NSW  
Resources  
Regulator**

FWP0001009

# **BALRANALD MINERAL SANDS PROJECT FORWARD PROGRAM**

Saturday 1 January 2022 to Tuesday 31 December 2024

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## Summary

### DETAIL

Mine	Balranald Mineral Sands Project
Reference	FWP0001009
Forward program commencement date	Saturday 1 January 2022
Forward program end date	Tuesday 31 December 2024
Forward program revision (if applicable)	
Contact	Brendan Isaacs
Mining leases	ML 1736 (1992)
Project location	ILUKA RESOURCES LIMITED
Date of submission	Tuesday 26 July 2022

## Important

The department may make the information in your program and any supporting information available for inspection by members of the public, including by publication on its website or by displaying the information at any of its offices. If you consider any part of your program to be confidential, please communicate this to the department via the message function on this submission within the NSW Resources Regulator Portal.

# Three-year forecast – surface disturbance activities

## Project description

The Balranald Project includes construction, open-cut mining, primary processing, and rehabilitation of a mineral sand deposit, known as the West Balranald, located approximately 12 kilometres and 66 km north-west of the town of Balranald, respectively. It also included undertaking an approved bulk sampling activity with the removal of up to 100,000 tonnes of mineral ore to trial the use of underground mining methods.

No open-cut mining activities or associated surface infrastructure has been established, however Iluka has undertaken the approved bulk sampling activity involving the extraction of the mineral ore from depth, using a trial underground mining method.

Iluka has applied to modify the consent (MOD1) under Section 4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act to extend the approved underground mining trial for up to six years.

The site has been decommissioned and the trial area has been in care and maintenance since November 2020.

## Description of surface disturbance activities

### Exploration activities

Disturbance activities have ceased and the site has been decommissioned and in care & maintenance since November 2020. No exploration activities requiring further disturbance are planned under the current approved Development Consent (SSD-5285).

Iluka has lodged a Modification Application (MOD1) to SSD-5285, under section 4.55(1A) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to allow Iluka to continue underground mining trials. There is no scheduled development of new disturbance areas until determination is made on the pending the MOD1 approval.

All current disturbance (23.85 hectares) within Mining Lease ML1736 will be subsumed by future mining operations under an approved MOD1 consent in the event all future mine plans are fully carried out.

A revised Forward Program will be submitted to the Resources Regulator for approval prior to any future disturbance activities taking place at the site or when required by Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases—Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021.

## Construction activities

Disturbance activities have ceased and the site has been decommissioned and in care & maintenance since November 2020. No construction activities requiring further disturbance are planned under the current approved Development Consent (SSD-5285).

Iluka has lodged a Modification Application (MOD1) to SSD-5285, under section 4.55(1A) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to allow Iluka to continue underground mining trials. There is no scheduled development of new disturbance areas until determination is made on the pending the MOD1 approval.

All current disturbance (23.85 hectares) within Mining Lease ML1736 will be subsumed by future mining operations under an approved MOD1 consent in the event all future mine plans are fully carried out.

A revised Forward Program will be submitted to the Resources Regulator for approval prior to any future disturbance activities taking place at the site or when required by Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases—Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021.

## Mining schedule

Mining development method and sequencing and general mine features.

Mining activities including construction, waste emplacements, processing and waste generation have ceased and the site has been decommissioned and in care & maintenance since November 2020. No mining activities are scheduled under the current approved Development Consent (SSD-5285).

Areas identified for emplacements, the sequencing of emplacements, construction, and management.

No mining activities scheduled

Processing infrastructure activities and the location of tailings facilities and schedule for emplacement

No processing activities scheduled

Waste disposal and materials handling operations.

No activities that are waste generating are scheduled.

## Key production milestones

MATERIAL	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<b>Stripped topsoil</b> (if applicable)	(m <sup>3</sup> )	0	0	0
<b>Rock/overburden</b>	(m <sup>3</sup> )	0	0	0
<b>Ore</b>	(Mt)	0	0	0
<b>Reject material<sup>1</sup></b>	(Mt)	0	0	0
<b>Product</b>	(Mt)	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> This includes coarse rejects, tailings and any other wastes resulting from beneficiation.

# Three-year rehabilitation forecast

## Rehabilitation planning schedule

### Rehabilitation planning schedule

The site has been in care and maintenance since November 2020 and no rehabilitation works have commenced.

Iluka has lodged a Modification Application (MOD1) to SSD-5285, under section 4.55(1A) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to allow Iluka to continue underground mining trials.

No rehabilitation planning is scheduled under the current approved Development Consent (SSD-5285). All current disturbance (23.85 hectares) within Mining Lease ML1736 will be subsumed by future mining operations under an approved MOD1 consent if future mine plans are fully carried out.

A revised Forward Program will be submitted to the Resources Regulator prior to any future rehabilitation activities taking place at the site or when required by the Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases—Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021.

### Stakeholder consultation

Iluka has lodged a Modification Application (MOD1) to SSD-5285, under section 4.55(1A) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to allow Iluka to continue underground mining trials.

A revised Forward Program will be submitted to the Resources Regulator prior to any future rehabilitation activities taking place at the site or when required by the Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases—Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021.

A revised Forward Program will outline stakeholder consultation that will be carried out over a three year period.

### Rehabilitation studies, risk assessments and/or design work

Iluka has lodged a Modification Application (MOD1) to SSD-5285, under section 4.55(1A) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to allow Iluka to continue underground mining trials.

A revised Forward Program will be submitted to the Resources Regulator prior to any future rehabilitation activities taking place at the site or when required by the Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases—Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021.

Rehabilitation studies, risk assessments and design work with finalising rehabilitation methods will be provided in a revised Forward Program.



Rehabilitation research and trials

RRT NUMBER	PROJECT/TRIAL NAME	OBJECTIVE OF TRIAL/PROJECT	METHODOLOGY	EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION	STATUS
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## Rehabilitation maintenance and corrective actions

The site has been in care and maintenance since November 2020 and no rehabilitation works have commenced.

## Rehabilitation schedule

The site has been in care and maintenance since November 2020 and no rehabilitation works have commenced.

Iluka has lodged a Modification Application (MOD1) to SSD-5285, under section 4.55(1A) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to allow Iluka to continue underground mining trials.

No rehabilitation is scheduled under the current approved Development Consent (SSD-5285). All current disturbance (23.85 hectares) within Mining Lease ML1736 will be subsumed by future mining operations under an approved MOD1 consent if future mine plans are fully carried out.

A revised Forward Program will be submitted to the Resources Regulator prior to any future rehabilitation activities taking place at the site or when required by the Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases—Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021.

## Subsidence remediation for underground operations

During care and maintenance, subsidence monitoring is undertaken biannually by a suitably qualified surveyor. Surveys are carried out using a drone to measure any changes in subsidence. Subsidence is managed in accordance with Iluka's Subsidence Management Plan (October 2019).

The current subsidence area (9.6 hectares) is secured by a fence to prevent inadvertent access and the area will be subsumed by future mining operations under an approved MOD1 Development Consent if future mine plans are fully carried out.

A revised Forward Program will be submitted to the Resources Regulator when required by the Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases—Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021. Subsidence remediation will be described in the revised Forward Program if it is determined any remediation is required.

## Progressive mining and rehabilitation statistics

### Three-yearly forecast cumulative disturbance and rehabilitation progression

FORECAST	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
A Total surface disturbance footprint	(ha)			
B Total active disturbance	(ha)			
C Land prepared for rehabilitation	(ha)			
D Ecosystem and land use establishment	(ha)			

### Rehabilitation key performance indicators (KPIs)

FORECAST	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
O Total new active disturbance area	(ha)			
P Area proposed for active rehabilitation	(ha)			
Q Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio				

## Attachment 1 – Reporting Definitions

REPORTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
<b>A</b> Total disturbance footprint – surface disturbance	<p>All areas within a mining lease that either have at some point in time or continue to pose a rehabilitation liability due to surface disturbance activities.</p> <p>The total disturbance footprint is the sum of the total active disturbance, decommissioning, landform establishment, growth medium development, ecosystem and land use establishment, ecosystem and land use development and rehabilitation completion (see definitions below).</p> <p>Underground mining operations should not include the footprint of underground mining areas/subsidence management areas in the total disturbance footprint.</p>
<b>B</b> Total active disturbance	<p>Includes on-lease exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste rock emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped) and temporary stabilised areas (e.g. areas sown with temporary cover crops for dust mitigation and temporary rehabilitation).</p>
<b>C</b> Rehabilitation – land preparation	<p>Includes the sum of all disturbed land within a mining lease that have commenced any, or all, of the following phases of rehabilitation– decommissioning, landform establishment and growth medium development.</p> <p>Refer to the glossary of terms in this document for the definition of these phases of rehabilitation.</p>
<b>D</b> Ecosystem and land use establishment	<p>Includes the area which has been seeded/planted with the target vegetation species for the intended final land use. However, vegetation has not matured to a stage where it can be demonstrated that it will be sustainable for the long term and or require only a maintenance regime consistent with target reference/analogue sites.</p> <p>Typically, rehabilitation areas would be in this phase for at least two years (and usually more) before rehabilitation can be classified as being in the ecosystem and land use development phase. This phase does not apply to infrastructure areas that are being retained as part of final land use for the site.</p>

REPORTING CATEGORY		DEFINITION
O		The area of any new active disturbance that will be created during the next three years, as defined under definition A1 (definition A1 Table 5).
P		The sum of any new rehabilitation to be commenced in the next three years. These areas may be in the phases “Rehabilitation - Land Preparation” or the “Ecosystem & Land Use Establishment” (definitions C & D in Table 5).
Q		The rehabilitation to disturbance ratio (S / R) indicates how many hectares of new rehabilitation are undertaken for each hectare of land disturbed during the three years. A ratio of 1/1 indicates that the area of new rehabilitation and disturbance in that period are the same.

## Attachment 2 – Definitions

WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Active</b>	In the context of rehabilitation, land associated with mining domains is considered 'active' for the period following disturbance until the commencement of rehabilitation.
<b>Active mining phase of rehabilitation</b>	In the context of rehabilitation, the active mining phase of rehabilitation constitutes the rehabilitation activities undertaken during mining operations such as salvaging and managing soil resources, salvaging habitat resources, and native seed collection. This phase also includes management actions taken during operations to manage risks to rehabilitation and enhance rehabilitation outcomes such as selective handling of waste rock and management of tailings emplacements.
<b>Analogue site</b>	In the context of rehabilitation, an analogue site is a 'reference site' that represents an example of the defining characteristics (such as vegetation composition and structure or agricultural productivity) of the final land use. Characteristics of analogue sites can be assessed to develop the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for final land use domains.
<b>Annual rehabilitation report and forward program</b>	As described in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Annual reporting period</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Closure</b>	A whole-of-mine-life process, which typically culminates in the relinquishment of the mining lease. It includes decommissioning and rehabilitation to achieve the approved final land use(s).
<b>Decommissioning</b>	The process of removing mining infrastructure and removing contaminants and hazardous materials.
<b>Decommissioning Phase of Rehabilitation</b>	Activities associated with the removal of mining infrastructure and removal and/or remediation of contaminants and hazardous materials. In the context of the rehabilitation management plan this phase of rehabilitation may also include studies and assessments associated with decommissioning and demolition of infrastructure or works carried out to make safe or 'fit for purpose' built infrastructure to be retained for future use(s) following lease relinquishment.

WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Department</b>	The Department of Regional NSW.
<b>Disturbance</b>	See Surface Disturbance.
<b>Disturbance area</b>	<p>An area that has been disturbed and that requires rehabilitation.</p> <p>This may include areas such as on-licence exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped), and areas requiring rehabilitation that are temporarily stabilised (i.e. managed to minimise dust generation and/or erosion).</p>
<b>Domain</b>	<p>An area (or areas) of the land that has been disturbed by mining and has a specific operational use (mining domain) or specific final land use (final land use domain). Land within a domain typically has similar geochemical and/or geophysical characteristics and therefore requires specific rehabilitation activities to achieve the associated final land use.</p>
<b>Ecosystem and Land Use Development</b>	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving the approved rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria.</p> <p>For vegetated land uses this phase may include processes to develop characteristics of functional self-sustaining ecosystems, such as nutrient recycling, vegetation flowering and reproduction, and increasing habitat complexity, and development of a productive, self-sustaining soil profile.</p> <p>This phase of rehabilitation may include specific vegetation management strategies and maintenance such as tree thinning, supplementary plantings and weed management.</p>
<b>Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment</b>	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final landform.</p> <p>For vegetated land uses this rehabilitation phase includes establishing the desired vegetation community and implementing land management activities such as weed control. This phase of rehabilitation may also include habitat augmentation such as installation of nest boxes.</p>
<b>Exploration</b>	Has the same meaning as that term under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.

WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Final landform and rehabilitation plan</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Final land use</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Form and way</b>	Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the Department's website.
<b>Growth Medium Development</b>	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of activities required to establish the physical, chemical and biological components of the substrate required to establish the desired vegetation community (including short lived pioneer species).</p> <p>This phase may include spreading the prepared landform with topsoil and/or subsoil and/or soil substitutes, applying soil ameliorants to enhance the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the growth media, and actions to minimise loss of growth media due to erosion.</p>
<b>Habitat</b>	Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
<b>Indicator</b>	An attribute of the biophysical environment (e.g. pH, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to approximate the progression of a biophysical process. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion (i.e. defined end point). It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.
<b>Land</b>	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
<b>Landform Establishment</b>	<p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the final landform.</p> <p>In addition to profiling the surface of rehabilitation areas to the approved final landform profile this phase may include works to construct surface water drainage features, encapsulate problematic materials such as tailings, and prepare a substrate with the desired physical and chemical characteristics (e.g. rock raking or ameliorating sodic materials).</p>
<b>Large mine</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Lease holder</b>	The holder of a mining lease.



WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Life of mine</b>	The timeframe of how long a mine is approved to mine, from commencement to closure.
<b>Mine rehabilitation portal</b>	<p>Means the NSW Resources Regulator's online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ upload rehabilitation geographical information system (GIS) spatial data</li> <li>■ develop rehabilitation GIS spatial data (using online tracing functions)</li> <li>■ generate rehabilitation plans and rehabilitation statistics using the map viewer and Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicator functionalities.</li> </ul> <p>Data submitted to the mine rehabilitation portal is collated in a centralised geodatabase for use by the NSW Resources Regulator to regulate rehabilitation performance of lease holders.</p>
<b>Mining area</b>	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
<b>Mining domain</b>	A land management unit with a discrete operational function (e.g. overburden emplacement), and therefore similar geophysical characteristics, that will require specific rehabilitation treatments to achieve the final land use(s).
<b>Mining land</b>	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
<b>Native vegetation</b>	Has the same meaning as that term under section 60B of the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> .
<b>Overburden</b>	Material overlying coal or a mineral deposit.
<b>Performance indicator</b>	An attribute of the biophysical environment (for example pH, slope, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to demonstrate achievement of a rehabilitation objective. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion, that is, a defined end point. It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.

WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Phases of rehabilitation</b>	<p>The stages and sequences of actions required to rehabilitate disturbed land to achieve the final land use. The phases of rehabilitation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ active mining</li> <li>■ decommissioning</li> <li>■ landform Establishment</li> <li>■ growth medium development</li> <li>■ ecosystem and land use establishment</li> <li>■ ecosystem and land use development.</li> </ul>
<b>Progressive rehabilitation</b>	The progress of rehabilitation towards achieving the approved rehabilitation completion criteria. This may be described in terms of domains, phases, performance indicators and rehabilitation completion criteria.
<b>Rehabilitation Completion</b>	<p>The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for the final land use. Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the NSW Resources Regulator has determined in writing that the relevant rehabilitation obligations have been fulfilled following submission of <i>Form ESF2 Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate</i> application by the lease holder.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation Completion criteria</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Rehabilitation cost estimate</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Rehabilitation management plan</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Rehabilitation objectives</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Rehabilitation risk assessment</b>	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
<b>Rehabilitation schedule</b>	The defined timeframes for progressive rehabilitation set out in the forward program.

WORD	DEFINITION
<b>Relevant stakeholders</b>	Means any persons or bodies who may be affected by the mining operations, including rehabilitation, carried out on the lease land, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ the relevant development consent authority</li> <li>■ the local council</li> <li>■ the relevant landholder(s)</li> <li>■ community consultative committee (if required under the development consent) or equivalent consultative group</li> <li>■ affected land holder(s)</li> <li>■ government agencies relevant to the final land use</li> <li>■ affected infrastructure authorities (electricity, telecommunications, water, pipeline, road, rail authorities)</li> <li>■ local Aboriginal communities, and</li> <li>■ any other person or body determined by the Minister to be a relevant stakeholder in relation to a mining lease.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk</b>	The effect of uncertainty on objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009).
<b>Secretary</b>	The Secretary of the Department.
<b>Security deposit</b>	An amount that a mining lease holder is required to provide and maintain under a mining lease condition, to secure funding for the fulfilment of obligations under the lease (including obligations that may arise in the future).
<b>Surface disturbance</b>	Includes activities that disturb the surface of the mining area, including mining operations, ancillary mining activities and exploration.
<b>Tailings</b>	A combination of the fine-grained solid material remaining after the recoverable metals and minerals have been extracted from the mined ore, and any process water <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Waste</b>	Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .

<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth of Australia (DITR), 2007. *Tailings Management*.

## Attachment 3 – Plans

Plan 2A Mining and Rehabilitation- Year 1.pdf

Plan 2B Mining and Rehabilitation- Year 2.pdf

Plan 2C Mining and Rehabilitation- Year 3.pdf

Forward Program (LARGE MINE) v2.1